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-- remove volatile residuals. The resulting polymer was a yellow to white solid having a weight average molecular weight of 950,000, a number average molecular weight of 230,000, and bulk viscosity of 2000 centipoise. The effectiveness of the polymer as a thickener for HPIB was measured as described above. The thickened oil product was opaque and had a viscosity of 5400 centipoise. --

Page 11 delete the whole page.

In the Claims

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1. (Amended) A thickened oil composition comprising

(1) an oil, and

~~(2)~~ (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o, such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;

(d) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p,

(e) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p, and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and

(f) [has at least one of the following characteristics

(i) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing at least one group selected from oxygen-containing groups , e.g. a hydroxyl group; nitrogen-containing groups; fluorine-containing groups; and silicon-containing groups , e.g.silyl groups;

(ii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of carboxylic groups, carboxylic

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groups in the form of salts, and sulfonic acid groups in the form of salts;

(iii) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains carboxylic acid groups in an amount less than 0.075 meq/g;

(iv) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which contains repeating units containing long chain alkyl groups containing at least 26 carbon atoms;

(v) it] is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups;

[(iv) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of ionizable groups;

(vi) it is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is a block copolymer or a graft copolymer;

(vii) it is a homopolymer;

(viii) it is a main chain crystalline polymer; and

(ix) it is a homopolymer or copolymer of caprolactone;]

the composition being at a temperature below T_p.

Cancel claim 4.

Please add the following new claims 5-20.

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5. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3 % by weight and contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms.

6. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3 % by weight and contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms.

7. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the SCC polymer is a homopolymer.

8. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.

9. A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3 % by weight and the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms.

10. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a copolymer which consists essentially of units derived from

(a) at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and

(b) at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms.

11. A composition according to Claim 10 wherein the SCC polymer is present in amount at least 3 % by weight and the n-alkyl group contains 16 to 50 carbon atoms.

12. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein T_p is above 40 °C.

13. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

14. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein $T_p - T_o$ is less than 10 °C.

15. A thickened oil composition comprising

(1) an oil, and

(4) dispersed in the oil, at least 3% by weight of a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which

(a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p, of 20 to 80 °C, and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that T_p-T_o is less than 10 °C;

(b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p,

(c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises

(i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p, and

(ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil,

(d) contains at least 80% by weight of repeating units containing a side chain comprising a linear polymethylene radical containing 10 to 50 carbon atoms or a linear perfluorinated polymethylene radical containing 6 to 50 carbon atoms, and

(e) is substantially free of functional groups;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p.

16. A composition according to Claim 15 which is substantially free of water.

17. A composition according to Claim 15 which is a water-in-oil emulsion.

18. A composition according to Claim 15, wherein T_p is 40-50 °C.

19. A composition according to Claim 15, wherein the SCC polymer consists essentially of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms.